

Remarks

In the above-identified Office Action the Examiner has indicated that the application contains claims directed to more than species of the generic invention and such has required that Applicant elect which species to which claims should be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Applicant hereby elects general formula I. It is not apparent but it is possible that the Examiner has also required without so stating that Applicant elect a single compound covered by the general formula I. In case this is what the Examiner has intended, Applicant also elects sarsasapogenin.

The Examiner has also required Applicant to elect a specific disease to be treated. Applicant hereby elects amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) as the specific disease for further prosecution. However, Applicant notes that Huntington's disease and Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) are substantially related to ALS in that they display a similar mode of action, thus are treated similarly. If possible Applicant would wish to elect Huntington's disease and MSA in addition to the ALS.

The Examiner has also required Applicant to elect one or more additional active agents. Applicant here elects "neurotrophic factors" as the additional active agent.

Applicant notes that the claims readable on formula I are claims 1 through 8. Claims readable on the species amyotrophic lateral sclerosis are claim 8 and the claim readable on

neurotrophic factors are claim 7.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

No further fee or petition is believed to be necessary. However, should any further fee be needed, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23-0920, and deem this paper to be the required petition.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance and applicant earnestly solicits an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, she is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below listed number.

Atty. Docket No. 92773

Respectfully submitted,

**HUSCH BLACKWELL SANDERS LLP
WELSH & KATZ**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald T. Shekleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerald" being more prominent.

Gerald T. Shekleton
Registration No. 27,466

Dated: April 20, 2009

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